

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 01689 281740Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 AID-05

CU-04 IO-13 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 /052 W

-----281752Z 032140 /53

O 281542Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9983

UNCLAS ASUNCION 1689

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PA

SUBJ: LAST PROJECT MARANDU DETAINEE RELEASED

REF: ASUNCION 1396

1. VICTOR VILLALBA SUAREZ, THE LAST PROJECT MARANDU STAFF MEMBER REMAINING IN DETENTION, WAS FREED BY A JUDGE APRIL 27. FOLLOWING VILLALBA'S INITIAL EXAMINATION IN COURT, THE JUDGE FOUND THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO HOLD HIM.

2. VILLALBA SUAREZ IS THE FINAL MEMBER OF PROJECT MARANDU (AN IAF-SPONSORED INDIAN WELFARE ORGANIZATION) TO BE SET FREE. HE WAS ARRESTED IN DECMEBER 1975 ALONG WITH PROJECT DIRECTOR, PROFESSOR CHASE SARDI, GLORIA ESTRAGO, AND CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR MAURICIO SCHWARTZMAN, FOR ALLEGED MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF PARAGUAY. CHASE SARDI WAS RELEASED JUNE 30, 1976, AND PROFESSOR SCHWARTZMAN ON APRIL 6, 1977. MISS ESTRAGO WAS RELEASED ON DECEMBER 31, 1976, BUT HAS NOT YET MADE AN APPEARANCE IN COURT. CHARGES AGAINST HER UNDER PARAGUAY'S ANTI-SUBVERSIVE LAWS ARE STILL PENDING, BUT HAVE ALREADY BEEN DROPPED AGAINST THE OTHERS.

3. DEPARTMENT PLEASE INFORM IAF, PROFESSOR CHASE SARDI AND AMBASSADOR STEPHANSKY.

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** LAST PROJECT MARANDU DETAINEE RELEASED  
**TAGS:** SHUM, PINT, PINS, PA, (VILLALBA SUAREZ, VICTOR)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009